

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF JUNE 1 TO STATEN ISLAND

The field trip to Staten Island "for Sedges and Grasses to an interesting sphagnum bog" had to be shifted at the last moment to another region because the heavy rains a few days earlier had flooded the bog with several inches of water.

From the ferry the group went by bus to Fours Corners, then by the Travis bus to Sigers Road. The way led along the road to the marshes, across them to the bridge over the creek on Travis Avenue, then east to the water works near the Bird Sanctuary.

Only the more common sedges were found, except for *Carex rosea* Schkuhr., a sedge that was collected on May 25, 1889, by Dr. N. L. Britton on Staten Island. The criteria are—(1) slender, brownish, *not* twisted, stigmas; (2) beak little contracted; (3) inconspicuous whitish edge to orifice of perigynium. The only uncommon grass found was *Puccinellia distans* (L.) Parl., collected at the edge of the marsh in early fruiting condition.

In the latter part of the afternoon our original group of four was joined by the Staten Island Bird Club of sixteen people and we then spent some time exploring the Springville Bird Sanctuary established by William T. Davis a number of years ago.

At the entrance to the sanctuary the ground was nearly bare of vegetation except for a large number of green balls half an inch in diameter lying scattered on the surface. These were fastened to the soil by a brown, withered strand that must have been earlier the growing support of the balls. A little study of these objects showed them to be the seed pods of the Fawn Lily (*Erythronium americanum* Ker.).

WILLIAM H. WIEGMENN and A. T. BEALS

TRIP OF JUNE 8 TO OXFORD, CONN.

This was advertised as a joint meeting with the Connecticut Botanical Society but the only Torrey Club member present was the leader. About twenty members of the local society attended.

Whorled Pogonia was seen in dry woods at Oxford in the last stages of its flowering and on the borders of a wooded swamp were the Mountain Holly, *Nemophanthus mucronata*, and *Woodwardia*

areolata. A quantity of Moccasin Flower, *Cypripedium acaule* was much admired.

After eating lunch on Mr. Harger's lawn the party was shown Black Swallow Wort, *Cynanchum nigrum* by the roadside and Painted Cup, *Castilleja coccinea* in a field nearby. Later a rich rocky hillside was explored, the most notable species seen here being the grass *Melica striata*, this being the most southerly of the six reported stations in the state. *Carex longirostris* was growing here, but most of the more interesting plants of these woods were either past bloom or not yet in flower. These included Red Berried Elder, *Sambucus racemosa*; Alleghany Vine, *Adlumia*; Red and White Baneberries, *Actaea*; Blue Cohosh, *Caulophyllum*; Pale Jewel Weed, *Impatiens pallida*; Wall Wort, *Parietaria*; and Dogwood, *Cornus circinata*.

E. B. HARGER

TRIP OF JULY 20, 1940, TO THE FERN GARDEN OF MR. W. H. DOLE,
WEST ORANGE, N. J.

Fourteen members and guests of the Club visited the fern garden on this trip. Seventy-six species and varieties of ferns were seen, in most cases well established, and, as a result of the cool spring and frequent rains, in the best of condition.

All of the ferns seen last year came through the winter, though some of the western and oriental species were slow to start new growth. The specimen of *Atherium alpestre* var. *americanum* from Mt. Rainier, set out in 1935 as a small plant has shown rapid increase by subdivision and now two clumps, one in shade most of the day and the other in the rock garden (limestone) in a sunny location, appear happy in their new surroundings.

Success in growing ferns appears to be largely a matter of light and shade or of position and drainage. Most ferns except those of the deep woods object to low shade and with a few notable exceptions appear rather indifferent as to soil—the upland lady fern, listed as preferring acid soil, thrives anywhere and everywhere in the garden and sporelings appear regardless of soil conditions, in the rock garden (limestone) or at the edges of the tiny "bog garden" where the soil is acid.

A specimen of *Woodsia ilvensis* found in 1936 growing in a vertical crevice in a moist location near the bottom of Haines Falls,

Green Co., N. Y., and planted in a similar position in the rock garden (limestone) has done well and is now a finer specimen than when found, though the species usually seems to favor well-drained positions on top of non-calcareous soil.

New ferns being tried out are some of the species seen at the fern exhibit of the New York Botanical Garden at the New York Flower Show last March and said to be hardy here. These were set out in the garden about the end of April and include the following western species: *Polystichum Andersoni*, *P. lonchites*, *P. aculeatum plumosum compactum* (and its crested form) also a West Indian species, *P. viviparum*. All of these have developed new fronds and appear to be thriving.

After having inspected the garden, all were invited by Mrs. Dole to rest awhile in the shade of the porch and to partake of cooling drinks.

W. H. DOLE

TRIP OF AUGUST 3-4 TO LAKE SHEHAWKEN, PA.

A very enthusiastic group of eleven escaped from metropolitan life to make botanical adventures into the unvisited lake country of Wayne County, Pennsylvania. An elevation of over two thousand feet, night temperature of 50, day temperature of 70, sunny skies and cool winds made perfect conditions. On Saturday morning a tour of the lake shore produced among other plants both the male and female trees of *Ilex monticola*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Persicaria natans*, var. *Hartwrightii*, with their peculiarly ruffed ocreae, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* *Scirpus atrocinctus*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Habenaria lacera*, *H. macrophylla*, *Najas flexilis*, *Isoetes braunii*, *I. riparia*, *Lycopodium tristachyum*, *L. inundatum*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Botrychium matricariaefolium*, *B. lanceolatum* v. *angustisegmentum*, *B. dissectum*, *B. obliquum*, and the variety *oneidense*, *Polystichum braunii* v. *purshii*, *Dryopteris goldiana*, *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, and the ripening fruits of *Trillium undulatum* and the pure blue berries of *Clintonia borealis*.

In the afternoon at Island Lake we saw *Lobelia dortmanna*, *L. cardinalis*, and the ripe spikes of *Orontium aquaticum*. At Scott Center we were too late for the annual display of thousands of *Pentstemon digitalis*. In a woods beyond we visited a bank of *Lycopodiums*, five species including *L. annotinum*. At a mountain bog

a few miles beyond we collected *Rynchospora alba*, *Coptis trifoliata*, *Andromeda glaucophylla*, *Epilobium lineare*, *Dryopteris spinulosa*, *D. cristata*, *D. boottii*, *Equisteum silvaticum*, *Alectoria chalybeiformis*, *Evernia prunastri*, *Cetraria juniperina*, and *Parmelia olivacea*.

The station for Braun's Holly Fern, *Polystichum braunii* v. *purshii*, furnished the event of the afternoon. In this bouldered ravine we saw the brilliant red berries of *Actaea rubra*, the pearl ones of *A. alba*, and collected *Cystopteris bulbifera*, *Camptosorus rhyzophylla*, *Phegopteris polypodioides*, *P. dryopteris*, *Dalibarda repens*, the leaves of *Oxalis acetosella* and *Hepatica acutilobata*, and *Circaea alpina*. Frequent gustatory sallies on the fruit of *Rubus strigosus* should also be chronicled.

Sunday morning a swamp nearby was visited to collect *Dryopteris clintoniana* from the only reported locality in Wayne County. Then a drive toward a bog near Lakewood, Pa., where were hundreds of *Sarracenia purpurea* in bloom along with the white spikes of *Habenaria blephariglottis*. This is a typical mountain bog filled with sphagnum and roots of *Kalmia caroliniana*, *K. polifolia*, *Andromeda glaucophylla* and the small cranberry, *Oxycoccus palustris*. Here was collected *Eriophorum virginicum* and the ripe *E. callithrix*, *Nemopanthus mucronata*, *Carex pauciflora*, and *Menyanthes trifoliata*. The edge of the bog was fringed with small trees of *Larix laricina*. The lower branches of these were fringed with a lacy pattern of *Parmelia physodes*, *P. olivacea*, and punctuated with the golden-banded *Cetraria juniperina*. Twigs were hung with tufts of *Alectoria chalybeiformis*. Other plants of the bog and surrounding swamp included *Calla palustris*, *Habenaria tridentata*, *Rosa carolina*, and *Cornus canadensis*. On the pasture land adjacent to the swamp there was enthusiastic search, and successful, for grape ferns at this southernmost range extension for *Botrychium multifidum*. Ten minute stops were made at Preston Center to collect the Ostrich Fern (*Pteritis nodulosa*), and at Little Hickory Lake where were seen *Dianthus deltoides*, *Galium verum*, *Eleocharis obtusa*, *E. acicularis*, and *Myriophyllum tenellum*.

Then to the station for *Thelypteris simulata* through a heavy ground cover of *Taxus canadensis*. The Massachusetts fern here covers quite a large area surrounded and at times almost completely hidden by shoulder-high fronds of *Osmunda cinnamomea*.

As this was primarily a fern trip, the results may be noted. Of the thirty-two species found here, aside from many varieties and forms, twenty-nine were collected, seven species of *Lycopodiums*, two *Equisetums*, seven *Botrychiums*, counting *oneidense*, two *Isoetes*, and *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, a total of forty-six ferns and fern allies.

W. L. DIX

TRIP OF OCTOBER 13 TO BRANCHVILLE, CONN.

Eighteen members and guests were present on this trip which was made so popular in previous years by Miss Eleanor Friend, who unfortunately was not able to lead the trip this year. The famous quarry was visited and some of its interesting minerals were still to be found in spite of the depredations of innumerable collectors through the past several decades. Here it was interesting to note the differences between the common sugar maple and the black maple at this season. The leaves of the former were all golden or orange in hue and beginning to fall, while those of the latter were still pure green and fresh.

After climbing to the vantage point known popularly as Life Point, the party botanized in the deep woods and then the open fields and roadsides, identifying scores of species by their late fall characters. Of special interest were the late purple aster (*Aster patens*), the common hedge-mustard (*Erysimum officinale*), three species of wild-lettuce (*Lactuca spicata*, *L. canadensis*, and *L. sagittifolia*), the American Hercules-club (*Aralia spinosa*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and the downy rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*). Along the highway splendid stands of black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum nigrum*), Japanese bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), and climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*) were observed, while many members were amazed to see the beautiful blue seeds of the spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens biflora*), which were pointed out.

After some discouragement in following a rather obscure trail, the party eventually reached Weir Lake, where the common cardinal-flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and Indian-tobacco lobelia (*L. inflata*) were still in bloom and bur-reed (*Sparganium*) and

American ditch-stonecrop (*Penthorum sedoides*) were conspicuous because of their fruit. Submerged in the lake was seen a considerable quantity of *Potamogeton epihydrus*, but the water-violet (*Hottonia inflata*), for which the lake is famous botanically, was not at all in evidence at this season. The smooth false-foxglove (*Aureolaria flava*) showed its fruit-capsules all through the woods, along with two species of *Chimaphila*, while various species of aster, goldenrod, and dodder were still in anthesis. Sickle-pod (*Arabis canadensis*) proved of special interest because of its characteristic fruit-pods. Common motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*) and catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) were still in flower. A splendid tree of white mulberry (*Morus alba*) was found in what was obviously a wild state, probably an escape from some nearby garden many years ago. The bright red and orange fruits of the common Indian-turnip (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and the American climbing bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) vied on the borders of woods with the crimson and scarlet leaves of the red and scarlet oak, sour-gum, and sumac.

H. N. MOLDENKE

NEWS NOTES

Word has been received from Switzerland that the Herbaria of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, which after the outbreak of the war was divided among three castles near Paris for safe keeping, is in good condition and has been returned to the Muséum.

The herbaria of the department of botany of the British Museum together with original drawings, manuscripts and valuable books have been moved and stored in such a way that they will be as safe as possible but still may be consulted if necessary.

Mr. H. Guthrie Smith, New Zealand botanist and ornithologist, died on July 4 in his eightieth year. He was widely known for his books on the lives and habits of the rarer New Zealand birds and his graphic botanical history of his own sheep ranch. When in the United States in 1920 he visited at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. Joseph Burt-Davy of South Africa died on August 20. He was formerly demonstrator in forestry at the University of Oxford